

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

MATTHEW OKONKWO,)
Petitioner,)
v.) Civil Action No. 1:07cv1062-MHT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Respondent.)

O R D E R

On November 28, 2007, the petitioner, Bridget Y. Okonkwo, filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 challenging his convictions for conspiracy to defraud the United States and aiding and abetting the filing of false income tax returns.¹ The CLERK is hereby DIRECTED to serve a copy of Okonkwo's §2255 motion upon the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama. The United States Attorney is ORDERED to file a response to Okonkwo's motion within thirty (30) days from the date of this order. The government is advised that its response must address each claim presented by Okonkwo in the § 2255 motion.

¹Although the instant motion (Doc. No. 1) was date-stamped "received" in this court on December 5, 2007, Okonkwo indicates on the memorandum in support of his motion (Doc. No. 2) that the § 2255 motion was delivered to prison officials for mailing on November 28, 2007. Under the "mailbox rule," a *pro se* inmate's petition is deemed filed the date it is delivered to prison officials for mailing. *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 271-72 (1988); *Adams v. United States*, 173 F.3d 1339, 1340-41 (11th Cir. 1999); *Garvey v. Vaughn*, 993 F.2d 776, 780 (11th Cir. 1993).

In filing its response, the government shall identify and produce all documents and court records relevant to the issues pending in this cause of action. The government should also indicate what transcripts are available, whether such documents are a part of the original criminal record, and, if not, when they can be furnished to the court. The government shall attach to its response those portions of the trial record, including the plea agreement, guilty plea proceeding, and/or sentencing transcript, that are pertinent to a determination of the issues presented in this cause of action.

In addition, if this court is barred from reviewing a petitioner's claims due to his failure to properly preserve such claims, the government shall identify the defaulted claim(s) and provide a factual and legal basis for the procedural default argument.

Moreover, in filing its response, the government shall make specific reference to the portion of 28 U.S.C. § 2255 that provides:

A 1-year period of limitation shall apply to a motion under this section. The limitation period shall run from the latest of--

- (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final;
- (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the movant was prevented from making a motion by such governmental action;
- (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or

(4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

The government is advised that its response should contain a detailed procedural history, all relevant records, and citations to applicable case law from which the court can determine the applicability of the limitation period contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

The § 2255 motion contains claims of ineffective assistance of counsel. The court therefore concludes that Okonkwo has waived the attorney-client privilege with respect to these claims. *See Mincey v. Head*, 206 F.3d 1106, 1119 n.13 (11th Cir. 2000) (counsel could have related what client “told them because, by claiming that their performance in the trial court was ineffective, [defendant] had waived the attorney-client privilege.”); *Laughner v. United States*, 373 F.2d 326, 327 (5th Cir. 1967); *see also McDowell v. Calderon*, 197 F.3d 1253, 1254 (9th Cir. 1999) (defendant’s claims of ineffective assistance of counsel “waived his attorney-client privilege as to those matters pertaining to the attorney’s representation of [defendant] at trial.”); *Tasby v. United States*, 504 F.2d 332, 336 (8th Cir. 1974), *cert. denied*, 419 U.S. 1125 (1975) (attorney-client privilege is waived when client challenges attorney’s effectiveness).

In light of the foregoing, the CLERK is DIRECTED to provide copies of the instant § 2255 motion to attorneys Ben E. Bruner and Russell T. Daraski. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, Mr. Bruner and Mr. Duraski shall file with this court affidavits that addresses the claims of ineffective

assistance of counsel presented against them in the § 2255 motion. Mr. Bruner and Mr. Duraski shall also furnish the United States Attorney and Okonkwo with copies of their affidavits.

The parties are advised that no motion for summary judgment, motion to dismiss or any other dispositive motions addressed to the motion to vacate may be filed by any party without permission of the court. If any pleading denominated as a motion for summary judgment, motion to dismiss or other dispositive motion is sent to the court, the court shall not file or otherwise treat the pleading as a dispositive motion until and unless further order of the court.

The *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* require that the petitioner mail to counsel for the government a true copy of anything that is sent to the court. Consequently, the petitioner is advised that he must mail to the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama a true copy of **anything** that he sends to the court. Any document, pleading or correspondence sent to the court should specifically state that it has been sent to the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama. Failure to comply with the directives of this order may result in delaying resolution of this case. Moreover, the petitioner is specifically **CAUTIONED** that his failure to file pleadings in conformity with the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* and/or the directives contained in this order will result in such pleadings not being accepted for filing. The CLERK is **DIRECTED** to not accept for filing

any pleadings submitted by the petitioner that are not in compliance with either the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* or the directives contained in this order.

Done this 11th day of December, 2007.

/s/Charles S. Coody
CHARLES S. COODY
CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE